

REPORT TO THE U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
ON THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND YEAR OF AN HERPETOFAUNAL SURVEY OF  
ST. VINCENT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
DURING DECEMBER 2000 AND JANUARY 2001

Volunteer Participants: Joseph T. Collins (PI), Jerry D. Collins, Suzanne L. Collins, Kelly J. Irwin, Lisa K. Irwin, Emily C. Moriarty, and Travis W. Taggart.

18 December 2000

Drove over to Apalachicola at 9:00 am to stock up on provisions. Met with Thom Lewis at USFWS headquarters in Apalachicola; drove to Taylor's Hardware in East Point and purchased field supplies for USFWS Eastern Indigo Snake Survey on SVNWR.

19 December 2000

Left lodging for SVNWR at 7:00 am. Temperature was 40°F. Accompanied by SLC. Delivered fencing material for USFWS Eastern Indigo Snake Survey to cabin. Did recon and checked wood and metal structures from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Did not observe any amphibians, turtles, reptiles, or crocodilians. Cool and overcast until 11:00 am; partly sunny from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm, when strong wind came up.

21 December 2000

Left lodging for SVNWR at 7:00 am. Temperature was 42°F; sunny. Accompanied by SLC. Did herpetofaunal survey on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge from 8:30 am to noon. Began to take new GPS readings; all have changed since our last trip because the U. S. Military recalibrated the satellites. Observed the following:

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Dune Road

*Anolis carolinensis* –temp 55°F; two adults under Wood Structure 13

23 December 2000

Left lodging for East Point at 8:30 am. Accompanied by KJI and Lisa Irwin. Picked up more gear and supplies at hardware store and returned to island at 11:00 am. Spent entire day making funnel traps for USFWS Eastern Indigo Snake Survey.

24 December 2000

Spent most of day making funnel traps for USFWS Eastern Indigo Snake Survey.

25 December 1999

Completed construction of funnel traps for USFWS Eastern Indigo Snake Survey.

26 December 2000

Left lodging for SVNWR at 7:00 am. Temperature was 41°F. Accompanied by SLC (Toyota) and Kelly and Lisa Irwin (Isuzu). Did USFWS herpetofaunal survey on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Constructed and set four fence lines with eight funnel traps for USFWS Eastern Indigo Snake Survey. Observed the following:

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Rattlesnake Road at Rattlesnake Slough

*Amphiuma means* -1 subadult found dead at margin of slough

*Hyla cinerea* -2 subadults under logs

*Hyla squirella* -5 subadults under logs & boards

*Rana sphenoccephala* -1 subadult under palm log a margin of slough

*Scincella lateralis* -1 adult bark of fallen pine tree

Returned to lodging at 4:30 pm; temperature was 59°F.

27 December 2000

Left lodging for SVNWR at 6:30 am. Temperature was 50°F. Accompanied by SLC (Toyota) and Kelly and Lisa Irwin (Isuzu). Did USFWS herpetofaunal survey on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Observed the following:

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, near jct. Road D and Road 5

*Thamnophis sirtalis* - 1 young adult AOR

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, water control structure on Road E between Lake 3 and Lake 4

*Bufo terrestris* - 2 juvs under logs

*Hyla cinerea* - 1 subadult under bark on log

*Hyla squirella* - ±250 subadults under bark on logs

*Gastrophryne carolinensis* - 5 subadults under logs

*Alligator mississippiensis* - ±15 adults basking

*Anolis carolinensis* - 1 adult under log (brown)

*Scincella lateralis* - 3 adults under logs

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, along Dead End Road

*Bufo terrestris* - 2 juvs under logs

*Hyla squirella* - ±200 subadults under bark on logs

*Gastrophryne carolinensis* - 12 subadults under logs

*Pseudemys* sp. - 1 adult (partial skel)

*Scincella lateralis* - 2 adults under logs

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, west of Rattlesnake Slough water control structure

*Gastrophryne carolinensis* - 1 subadult under log

*Eumeces laticeps* - 2 adults (male & female) in rotten pine stump

*Scincella lateralis* - 1 adult under log

*Virginia striatula* - 1 adult under log

*Crotalus adamanteus* - 1 subadult (ca. 20 inches TL) under log

Joe Romanelli took us off the island gratis. Returned to lodging at 6:00 pm; temperature was 57°F.

29 December 2000

Left lodging for SVNWR at 6:45 am. Temperature was 43°F. Accompanied by SLC and Irwin's (in our Toyota). Did USFWS herpetofaunal survey on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Installed two fence lines on Road I for USFWS Eastern Indigo Snake Survey. Observed the following:

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, east of Rattlesnake Slough water control structure

*Bufo terrestris* - 2 juvs under logs  
*Hyla squirella* - 3 subadults under bark on logs  
*Gastrophryne carolinensis* - 1 subadult under log  
*Anolis carolinensis* - 2 adults under logs (brown)  
*Eumeces laticeps* - 3 adults under logs (2 males; 1 female)  
*Scincella lateralis* - 1 adult under logs  
*Coluber constrictor* - 2 spent clutches (5 & 6 eggs)  
*Elaphe obsoleta* - 2 adults; one inside rotten pine stump; another under RR tie  
*Masticophis flagellum* - 1 spent clutch (7 eggs)  
*Thamnophis sauritus* - 1 large adult inside rotten pine stump

Returned to lodging at 6:00 pm; temperature was 49°F.

30 December 2000

Left lodging for SVNWR at 8:45 am. Temperature was 38°F. Accompanied by SLC and Kelly and Lisa Irwin (in our Toyota). Arrived at Indian Pass at 10:00 am. Tide was too low, and wind was strong. We could not ferry over to SVNWR. Instead, had coffee at local restaurant with Thom Lewis, and discussed SVNWR project until noon. Returned to residence at 1:00 pm.

31 December 2000

Left lodging for SVNWR at 8:00 am. Temperature was 29°F. Accompanied by SLC and Kelly and Lisa Irwin (in our Toyota). Did USFWS herpetofaunal survey on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Installed the final three fence/funnel traps for USFWS Eastern Indigo Snake Survey. Very cold temperatures, but sunny with no wind. Observed the following:

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, water control structure on Road E between Lake 3 and Lake 4 near Fence Trap 10

*Hyla squirella* - 12 subadults under bark on logs

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Dune Road

(GPS N29-63201, W85-11510)

*Coluber constrictor* – adult found alive in open with raptor talon marks

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Dune Road

*Terrapene carolina* – upper shell only

Using video camera with Joann Lewis and Kelly Irwin, we checked 15 *Gopherus* burrows and observed the following:

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Dune Road

*Gopherus polyphemus* – adult in burrow near Fence Trap 4 (GPS N29-63246, W85-12935)

*Crotalus adamanteus* – adult in burrow (GPS N29-63201, W85-11510)

*Gopherus polyphemus* – adult in burrow (GPS N29-63293, W85-10907)

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, A Road btwn Oyster Pond Restoration Bridge and Rattlesnake Rd

*Gopherus polyphemus* – adult in burrow (GPS N29-64030, W85-14715)

*Crotalus adamanteus* – adult in burrow (GPS N29-64030, W85-14715)

Returned to lodging at 6:30 pm; temperature was 39°F.

2 January 2001

Left lodging for SVNWR at 7:00 am. Temperature was 31°F. Accompanied by SLC. Very cold. Attempted to conduct USFWS herpetofaunal survey on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Did not observe any herpetofauna, although it was sunny. Re-located two wood structures and re-marked them, and disarmed both USFWS Eastern Indigo Snake Survey fence traps on Road I.

Returned to lodging at 4:30 pm; temperature was 50°F.

8 January 2001

Left lodging for SVNWR at 7:00 am. Temperature was 60°F. Accompanied by SLC, TWT and Jerry Collins. Did USFWS herpetofaunal survey on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Observed the following:

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, near Cabin

*Hyla cinerea* –1 adult

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, NE border of Oyster Slough

*Hyla cinerea* –5 subadults under pine bark

*Hyla squirella* –1 adult under pine bark

*Rana sphenoccephala* –1 subadult active along marsh

*Scincella lateralis* –1 adult under cabbage palm bark

*Sistrurus miliarius* –1 adult under cabbage palm bark

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, N border Rattlesnake Slough

*Hyla cinerea* –5 adults under pine bark

*Gastrophryne carolinensis* –1 subadult under pine bark

*Anolis carolinensis* –1 adult active by day

*Eumeces laticeps* –1 juv in upright cabbage palm

*Scincella lateralis* –6 adults under cabbage palm bark

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Rattlesnake Slough Water Control Structure

*Virginia striatula* –1 adult under Wood Structure 33

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, A Road btwn Oyster Pond Restoration Bridge and Rattlesnake Rd

*Crotalus adamanteus* –adult (four feet) in burrow (GPS N29.64030, W85.14715)

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, along Dune Road

*Hyla cinerea* –1 subadult under pine bark

*Hyla squirella* –± 50 subadults under pine bark

*Rana sphenoccephala* –1 subadult active by day

*Anolis carolinensis* –6 adults active by day

*Eumeces laticeps* –1 adult male in upright cabbage palm

*Elaphe obsoleta* –1 subadult in downed cabbage palm

*Masticophis flagellum* –1 clutch of four eggs (unhatched)

*Thamnophis sauritus* –1 adult escaped in saw palmetto

*Sistrurus miliarius* –2 under cabbage palm bark (1 adult & 1 juv)

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Indian Pass on Island

*Bufo terrestris* –1 adult under cabbage palm bark

Joey Romanelli took us off the island. Returned to lodging at 6:00 pm; temperature was 60°F.

9 January 2001

Left lodging for SVNWR at 7:00 am. Temperature was 37°F. Accompanied by SLC, TWT, Emily Moriarty and Francis Thoennes. Arrived at Indian Pass at 8:30 am. Could not access SVNWR because of low tide. Left Indian Pass at 9:30 am, drove to USFWS office in Apalachicola. Picked up collecting permit and reimbursement forms from Terry Peacock, Refuge Manager, and discussed field work with her.

Returned to lodging at 1:00 pm.

10 January 2001

Left lodging for SVNWR at 7:00 am. Temperature was 32°F. Accompanied by SLC, TWT, Emily Moriarty and Francis Thoennes. Did USFWS herpetofaunal survey on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Checked seven active fence funnel traps for the USFWS Eastern Indigo Snake Survey on Road E (1), Rattlesnake Slough (2), and Dune Road (4); nothing in traps. Observed the following:

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Dune Road

*Hyla cinerea* –1 subadult under pine bark  
*Hyla squirella* – ±10 subadults under pine bark  
*Gastrophryne carolinensis* –1 subadult under pine bark  
*Anolis carolinensis* –10 adults under pine bark (brown)  
*Eumeces laticeps* –1 adult female under pine bark  
*Virginia striatula* –1 adult under pine bark  
*Sistrurus miliarius* –1 juv under cabbage palm bark

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Road E, Lake 3-Lake 4 Water Control Structure

*Hyla squirella* – ±25 subadults under pine bark  
*Anolis carolinensis* –1 adult under pine bark (brown)  
*Alligator mississippiensis* –7 adults basking (all five feet or larger)

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Pickalene Shore Road

*Scincella lateralis* –1 adult under pine bark

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, O Road to beach

*Anolis carolinensis* –1 adult under wood pile (brown)

Returned to lodging at 6:00 pm; temperature was 48°F.

11 January 2001

Left lodging for SVNWR at 7:00 am. Temperature was 38°F. Accompanied by SLC, TWT, and Jerry Collins. Did USFWS herpetofaunal survey on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Observed the following:

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, at bridge near cabin

*Cemophora coccinea* –1 juv under woodpile

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, near Red Wolf pen

GPS N29.64028, W85.13512  
*Hyla squirella* –3 subadults under pine bark  
*Anolis carolinensis* –1 adult under pine bark (brown)

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, near Old Coast Guard Base

GPS N29.64030, W85.14715

*Hyla cinerea* –1 adult under pine bark

*Hyla squirella* –2 subadults under pine bark

*Anolis carolinensis* –2 adults under pine bark (brown)

*Coluber constrictor* –clutch of six eggs in cabbage palm

*Elaphe obsoleta* –1 adult inside rotten RR tie

*Crotalus adamanteus* –1 adult (four feet) in abandoned underground burrow

*Sistrurus miliarius* –1 adult in abandoned underground burrow

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, along Road A

*Hyla cinerea* –2 subadults under pine bark

*Hyla squirella* –20 subadults under pine bark

*Anolis carolinensis* –29 adults under pine bark (brown) – two found dead (frozen?)

*Eumeces laticeps* –3 adults (2 females & 1 male) under pine bark

*Scincella lateralis* –2 adults under pine bark

*Coluber constrictor* –clutch of eleven eggs in cabbage palm

*Elaphe guttata* –1 subadult under pine bark

*Virginia striatula* –1 adult under pine bark

Joey Romanelli took us off the island. Returned to lodging at 5:45 pm; temperature was 54°F.

12 January 2001

Left lodging for SVNWR at 7:00 am. Temperature was 58°F and misty; very humid. Accompanied by SLC, TWT, and Jerry Collins. Did USFWS herpetofaunal survey on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Observed the following:

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Pig Slaughter Road, btwn Charlotte & Insulator Roads

GPS N29.64129, W85.09896

*Hyla squirella* – 1 subadult under pine bark

*Anolis carolinensis* –1 adult under pine bark (brown)

*Eumeces laticeps* –1 juv under board

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Road A

*Anolis carolinensis* –2 adults under pine bark (brown)

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Road E, Lake 3-Lake 4 Water Control Structure

*Hyla squirella* – ±65 subadults under pine bark

*Gastrophryne carolinensis* – 2 subadults under pine bark

*Anolis carolinensis* –1 adult under pine bark (brown)

*Scincella lateralis* –1 adult under pine bark

*Alligator mississippiensis* –3 adults basking (all five feet or larger)

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Pickalene Road

*Anolis carolinensis* –4 adults under pine bark (brown)

*Scincella lateralis* –2 adults under pine bark

Returned to lodging at 5:30 pm; temperature was 54°F.

15 January 2001

Left lodging for SYNWR at 7:30 am. Temperature was 50°F. Accompanied by SLC and Terry Peacock (Refuge Manager). Did USFWS herpetofaunal survey on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Observed the following:

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Road H, just E of Road 4/1

*Eumeces laticeps* -1 juv under pine bark

*Scincella lateralis* -2 adults under pine bark

*Elaphe guttata* -1 subadult shed skin under pine bark

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, Road E, Lake 3-Lake 4 Water Control Structure

*Alligator mississippiensis* -19 adults basking (all four feet or larger)

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, jct. Road F & Road 6

*Hyla squirella* -1 subadult under pine bark

*Anolis carolinensis* -1 adult under pine bark (brown)

*Eumeces laticeps* -2 adults (male & female) under pine bark

Florida: Franklin Co: St. Vincent NWR, along Dune Road

*Scincella lateralis* -2 adults under Wood Structure 5

Returned to lodging at 6:15 pm; temperature was 63°F.